

Attorney Docket: 032,290-0006
(Formerly ARTM-1005US)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-88. (cancelled)

89. (previously amended) A target tissue localization device comprising:
a bioabsorbable element in a pre-delivery state prior to its delivery to a soft
tissue site of a patient;
the bioabsorbable element comprising a chemotherapy agent; and
said bioabsorbable element being of a material which is in a post-delivery
state at the target tissue site.

90. (previously amended) The device according to claim 89 wherein the
bioabsorbable element is remotely visualizable within the surrounding soft tissue when in the post-
delivery state.

91-93. (Cancelled)

94. (previously amended) A target tissue localization device comprising:
a bioabsorbable element in a pre-delivery state prior to its delivery to a soft
tissue of a patient;
said bioabsorbable element being of a material which is in a post-delivery
state at the target tissue site; and
the bioabsorbable element comprising means for subsequently receiving a
therapeutic agent.

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95. (previously added) The device according to claim 94 wherein the receiving means comprises a radiation agent.

96. (previously added) The device according to claim 94 wherein the receiving means comprises a gene therapy agent.

97. (previously added) The device according to claim 94 wherein the receiving means comprises a chemotherapy agent.

98. (previously added) The device according to claim 89 further comprising a marker element in contact with the bioabsorbable element.

G1 99. (previously added) The device according to claim 98 wherein the marker element is a radiopaque marker element located generally centrally within the bioabsorbable element.

100. (previously added) The device according to claim 99 wherein the radiopaque marker element is a chosen one of a permanent marker element and a temporary marker element.

101. (previously amended) The device according to claim 89 wherein the bioabsorbable element is remotely visualizable in its post-delivery state by at least one of ultrasound and mammography.

102. (cancelled)

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103. (previously added) The device according to claim 89 wherein the bioabsorbable element is physically different in its post-delivery state from its pre-delivery state.

104-117. (cancelled)

118. (previously added) A target tissue localization method comprising:
taking tissue from a target tissue site within a patient;
selecting a bioabsorbable element that is capable of yielding therapy via delivery of a therapeutic agent to or activating a therapeutic agent within the bioabsorbable element;
positioning the bioabsorbable element at the target tissue site;
testing the tissue; and
if the testing indicates a need to do so relocating the target tissue site by finding the bioabsorbable element by palpation of the patient to feel the bioabsorbable element.

119. (previously added) The method according to claim 118 wherein the positioning step is carried out using said bioabsorbable element and a radiopaque marker.

120. (previously added) The method according to claim the 119 wherein the radiopaque marker element is a chosen one of a permanent marker element and a temporary marker element.

121. (previously amended) The method according to claim 118 wherein the remotely visualizing step is carried out to buy at least one of ultrasound and mammography.

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122. (previously added) The method according to claim 118 further comprising the step of selecting the bioabsorbable element so that after positioning at the target site, the bioabsorbable element has a hardness of at least about 1.5 times as hard as the surrounding tissue.

123. (previously added) The method according to claim 118 further comprising the step of effectively preventing blood from contacting the bioabsorbable element until the bioabsorbable element is positioned at the target site.

124. (previously added) The method according to claim 123 wherein the effectively preventing step is carried out by using a hemostatic bioabsorbable element having a non-hemostatic biodegradable outer layer.

61 125. (previously added) The method according to claim 118 wherein the positioning step is carried out using a bioabsorbable element with a remotely sensible marker element at a generally central location within the bioabsorbable element.

126. (previously added) The method according to claim 118 wherein the tissue taking step is carried out at a biopsy site as the target tissue site.

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127. (previously added) A target tissue localization method comprising:
taking tissue from a target tissue site within a patient;
selecting a bioabsorbable element that is capable of yielding therapy via
delivery of therapy or activating therapy within the bioabsorbable element;
positioning the bioabsorbable element at the target tissue site;
testing the tissue; and
if the testing indicates the need to do so relocating the target tissue site by
finding the bioabsorbable element by locating inflammation at the target tissue site caused by the
bioabsorbable element.

128. (previously added) The method according to claim 127 wherein the
positioning step is carried out using said bioabsorbable element and a radiopaque marker.

61 129. (previously added) The method according to claim the 128 wherein the
radiopaque marker element is a chosen one of a permanent marker element and a temporary marker
element.

130. (previously amended) The method according to claim 127 wherein the
remotely visualizing step is carried out by at least one of ultrasound and mammography.

131. (previously added) The method according to claim 127 further comprising the
step of selecting the bioabsorbable element so that after positioning at the target site, the
bioabsorbable element has a hardness of at least 1.5 times as hard as the surrounding tissue.

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132. (previously added) The method according to claim 127 further comprising the step of effectively preventing blood from contacting the bioabsorbable element until the bioabsorbable element is positioned at the target site.

133. (previously added) The method according to claim 132 wherein the effectively preventing step is carried out by using a hemostatic bioabsorbable element having a non-hemostatic biodegradable outer layer.

134. (previously added) The method according to claim 127 wherein the positioning step is carried out using a bioabsorbable element within a remotely sensible marker element at a generally central location within the bioabsorbable element.

GI 135. (previously added) The method according to claim 127 wherein the tissue taking step is carried out at a biopsy site as the target tissue site.

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136. (previously amended) A target tissue localization method comprising:

- taking tissue from a target tissue site within a patient;
- selecting a bioabsorbable element that is capable of yielding therapy via delivery of a therapy or activating therapy within the bioabsorbable element;
- positioning the bioabsorbable element at the target tissue site;
- the step of selecting the bioabsorbable element at the target tissue site;
- the step of selecting the bioabsorbable element being carried out so that after positioning at the target site, the bioabsorbable element has a hardness of at least about 1.5 times as hard as the surrounding tissue;
- testing the tissue; and
- if the testing indicates a need to do so relocating the target tissue site by finding the bioabsorbable element by remotely visualizing the bioabsorbable element.

61 137. (previously added) The method according to claim 136 wherein the position step is carried out using said bioabsorbable element and radiopaque marker.

138. (previously added) The method according to claim the 137 wherein the radiopaque marker element is a chosen one of a permanent marker element and a temporary marker element.

139. (previously amended) The method according to claim 136 wherein the remotely visualizing step is carried out to by at least one of ultrasound, and mammography and ~~MRI~~.


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140. (cancelled) 

141. (previously added) The method according to claim 136 further comprising the step of effectively preventing blood from contacting the bioabsorbable element until the bioabsorbable element is positioned at the target site.

142. (previously added) The method according to claim 141 wherein the effectively preventing step is carried out using a hemostatic bioabsorbable element having a non-hemostatic biodegradable outer layer.

143. (previously added) The method according to claim 136 wherein the positioning step is carried out using a bioabsorbable element with a remotely sensible marker element at a generally central location within the bioabsorbable element.

 144. (previously amended) A target tissue localization method comprising:
taking tissue from a target tissue site within a patient;
selecting a remotely visualizable bioabsorbable element; and
positioning the remotely visualizable bioabsorbable element at the target tissue site.

145. (previously added) The method according to claim 144 wherein the positioning step is carried out using a bioabsorbable element at least a portion of which is radiopaque.

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146. (previously added) The method according to claim 144 wherein the tissue taking step is carried out at a biopsy site as the target tissue site.

147. (previously added) The method according to claim 144 wherein the positioning step is carried out using remote visualization.

148. (previously added) A medical treatment method comprising:
taking a tissue sample from a target tissue site within a patient;
positioning a bioabsorbable element at the target tissue site at the time of the taking of the tissue sample;
testing the tissue sample;
if the testing indicates the need to do so, medically treating the target tissue site.

149. (cancelled)

150. (previously added) The method according to claim 148 wherein the medically treating step comprises delivering a therapeutic agent to the target site.

151. (cancelled)

152. (previously added) The method according to claim 148 further comprising relocating the target tissue site by finding the bioabsorbable element.

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153. (previously added) The method according to claim 152 wherein the relocating step is carried out by a chosen one of palpation and remote visualization.

154. (previously amended) The method according to claim 152 wherein the relocating step is carried out by remote visualization using at least one of ultrasound and mammography.

155. (previously added) The method according to claim 152 wherein the relocating step is carried prior to the medically treating step.

156. (previously added) The method according to claim 155 wherein the medical treating step comprises removal of tissue.

61 157. (previously amended) The method according to claim 148 wherein the positioning step is carried out using a remotely visualizable bioabsorbable element, and wherein the relocating step comprises guiding a treatment device to the bioabsorbable element by at least one of remote visualization and palpation.

158. (previously added) The method according to claim 148 wherein the medically treating step comprises activating the site locatable by the bioabsorbable element.

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159. (previously added) The method according to claim 158 wherein the activating step is carried out by at least one of:

injecting a radiation-emitting element at the vicinity of the target site;
externally activating a therapeutic means within the bioabsorbable element;
externally irradiating the target site; and
triggering a substance carried by the element.

160. (previously added) The method according to claim 148 wherein the tissue sample taking step is carried out at a biopsy site as the target tissue site.

161. (currently amended) A method for marking a biopsy cavity, comprising the steps of:

providing a bioresorbable body having a radiopaque marker carried by ~~contained~~
~~within~~ the bioresorbable body;

removing a biopsy specimen from the breast of a patient, leaving a biopsy cavity;

inserting the bioresorbable body into the biopsy cavity to mark the location of the
biopsy cavity; and

testing the biopsy specimen.

162. (previously amended) The method of claim 161, further comprising the step of relocating the biopsy site by detecting the radiopaque marker.

163. (previously amended) The method of claim 161, wherein the bioresorbable

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body is collagen.

164. (previously amended) The method of claim 161, wherein the bioresorbable body is gelatin.

165. (previously amended) The method of claim 161, wherein the bioresorbable body is polylactic acid/polyglycolic acid.

166. (previously amended) The method of claim 161, wherein the bioresorbable body comprises at least one bioresorbable body.

167. (new) The method of claim 161, wherein the radiopaque marker is contained within the bioresorbable body.